

Gurney Wins '300'

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Captain Baylor

"When was Elgin Baylor appointed captain of the Lakers?" a man asked.

"About five minutes after I met him," was the reply from Fred Schaus, then coach and now general manager of the Los Angeles Lakers.

That is the kind of answer one usually gets when inquiring about Baylor, the all-time Laker great from Seattle University who has passed the 20,000 point scoring barrier.

"Baylor is not only a superb athlete," Schaus contends, "but he is a natural leader in a quiet way. He has a tremendous knowledge of the game and the other players respect him so much that naming him captain was the easiest thing I ever did as a coach."

Baylor comes off a great 1967-68 season in which he was second in the NBA in scoring with 2002 points for a 26.0 average and was named to the all-NBA first team for the ninth time in his career. He was the Lakers top scorer and also led the team in rebounding and assists. With Jerry West out of the lineup for 31 games with injuries last season, Elgin carried the Lakers to a second place regular season finish and a brilliant 35-10 mark the last half of the campaign.

All this one might normally expect of a superstar, but it takes on added meaning when one considers the fact only three years ago many people were insisting that Baylor was finished.

In the opening game of the 1964-65 playoffs, Elgin fell and broke his right kneecap. Surgery was required and one-eighth of the kneecap has to be removed. Following the operation Dr. Robert Keran told him, "Elg, that's all I can do — the rest is entirely up to you."

"I always thought Elgin would play again," says Schaus, "but I never thought he'd be able to play like he did last year. What the man went through is truly amazing. He bought a bicycle and he rode it. He ran and he worked with weights. Every day throughout that entire summer he pushed himself."

"What he went through is a lot of work for anyone," Schaus continues, "but when you consider that Baylor was 31 at the time and had been all-pro for seven straight years, you have to admire him even more."

Elgin came back that following year and immediately injured his "good knee." But the man's great pride would not let him give up and he steadily made the climb back to the top.

Now, for the first time in his career, Baylor will be playing on the same team with an outstanding center. The acquisition of Wilt Chamberlain from Philadelphia is expected to add several years to Elgin's playing time.

With Wilt in the middle, a lot of rebounding pressure has been taken off Baylor's shoulders. He can be rested more often and will not have to pace himself in games as he had to do during his last three years.

Later this season the Lakers will hold an "Elgin Baylor Night" at The Forum and all of Los Angeles will pay homage to this great Laker — the man who made NBA basketball in Los Angeles the great success that it is — the man who Chamberlain calls "the most exciting basketball player in history" — and the man who Schaus calls, "Pound for pound and inch for inch, the greatest all-around player in the history of basketball."

UCLA Five Look Tough

The final year of Lew Alcindor's basketball reign at UCLA got off the ground Saturday with a 94-82 conquest of Purdue.

There are some new faces at Ucland, but the central figure is still the 7-11/2 center who led the Bruins to two consecutive national titles in basketball.

Rick Mount, the pride and joy of Purdue, scored 33 points against UCLA Saturday, but the Boilermakers failed to press Coach John Wooden's varsity as much as last year when the game was decided on Bill Sweeek's last-second shot.

The Bruins' only other starter is 6-5 Lynn Shackelford, a forward.

Rounding out the starting five are 6-8 forward Sidney Wicks, Metropolitan Conference player of the year from Santa Monica, Sweeek, switched to guard after two years at forward, and Orange Coast transfer John Vallely, 6-2 1/2 converted guard.

Alcindor has put on about five pounds and is much stronger and more agile, according to Wooden.

Wooden has placed heavy emphasis on the development of guards Sweeek, Vallely, Ken Heitz and Don Saffer.

"I don't know if our guards will be ready early in the season," said Wooden, "but I am sure the situation will be settled by the time we open our Pacific-8 schedule in January."

Familiar Faces in CIF

St. Paul, Anaheim, Westminster and El Rancho have been in the headlines all season and now they have worked their way into the semi-finals of the CIF "AAAA" football playoffs.

In the "AAA" division Rolling Hills and Loara clash Friday night at El Camino and St. John Bosco opposes San Marino.

Anaheim moved into the semi-finals of the "AAAA" playoffs with a 47-27 win over Lakewood, a team that eliminated West High a week earlier, 24-6.

Pairings for the "AAAA" division are:

St. Paul (20-0 over Santa Barbara) vs. Anaheim.

Westminster (34-14 over Pasadena) vs. El Rancho (20-0 over Arroyo).

Loara (15-10 over California) vs. Rolling Hills (42-14 over Laguna Beach) at El Camino.

St. John Bosco (26-14 over Beverly Hills) vs. San Marino (16-8 over Claremont).

In the "AA" division, San Luis Obispo League champion San Luis Obispo will make the long trek to El Centro in search of its third CIF title, and its first since 1960, when the Tigers were "A" division champs.

Dan Gurney, ever-popular Can-Am and USAC driver from Costa Mesa, ran away from a field of 30 starters in winning the second Rex Mays "300" at Riverside Sunday.

The 37-year-old tousle-haired Gurney led all but five of the 116-lap race over the 2.6-mile road course. He set a course record of 11.689 mph for the 300 miles, breaking the old mark of 108.391 he set last year.

Mario Andretti, the 5-foot-6 veteran from Nazareth, Pa., finished third behind Bobby Unser of Albuquerque, N.M. Andretti lost his bid to capture a third national driving championship.

Andretti held a lead of 308 points over Unser prior to the race. However, Unser collected 489 points for finishing second in his Rislone Special, a rear engine Ford, while Mario scored 165.2 points for third. Competition shows Unser winning the championship by 6.8 points — 4326 to 4319.2.

Mario used three different cars in a vain attempt to overhaul Unser.

At the start, Mario actually led on laps three through seven and then dropped back to jockey for second and third position with Mark Donohue and Joe Leonard in an STP turbine.

Then, Andretti blew his engine on the 57th lap and coasted into the pits. He immediately jumped out of the car and tried to secure another ride.

Joe Leonard pitted the Parnelli Jones STP Turbine Special on lap 60 and was two laps back of leader Gurney in seventh place when Mario took over. It didn't last long.

Two laps later, Mario collided with Art Pollard in the other turbine on turn No. 9 dashing any hope the turbines had of winning the race. "I couldn't avoid him. Pollard went high and then all of a sudden we were together. I was just trying to feel the car out," said Mario, who had only four laps of prior experience in the turbines at Indianapolis.

McIntyre, 145; Bob Cobabe, 177 and Bob Voeltz, heavyweight.

Competing against the Warriors will be Metropolitan Conference-rival Bakersfield College, Arizona Western University, Chaffey College, Glendale College, San Diego Mesa College, Southwestern College, San Diego City College and defending champion Phoenix College.

Individual honors last year went to Frank Lucio, who took first place in the 177 pound class by default when his opponent was injured, after building up a 8-3 lead. Heavyweight Dan Felix placed second in his division; 130 pounder John Norris also finished second in the tournament.

Newcomers at El Camino are Terry Tumble (115 pounder), the Bay League wrestling champion from South High; Mike Garrini, 123; William Liebig, 137; Michael

McIntyre, 145; Bob Cobabe, 177 and Bob Voeltz, heavyweight.

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American Racing Classic To Be Run at Hollypark

The \$75,000 American Trotting Classic, renewed for the 14th time Friday night at Hollywood Park, will attract what promises to be one of the most evenly-matched fields in the race's history.

First post Friday night is 7:30 p.m.

Almost every member of the expected starting line-up has captured an important trotting event this year, and one of

them, Sir Faffee, has been breaking the 2:00 barrier with amazing regularity.

Seemingly improving with age, eight-year-old Sir Faffee has always had a world of speed, and since joining forces with leading driver Bobby Williams, that speed has earned the Richard Rhoads-trained gelding the role of favorite for the rich Classic.

Joining Sir Faffee on the exclusive list of trotters invited to

El Camino Wins Giveaway Game

By HENRY BURKE
Press-Herald Sports Editor

When a football team wins a playoff game, 37-12, and is cited for a performance of less than "80" per cent, it just doesn't sound right.

El Camino College played probably its poorest game of the season last Saturday, but Diablo Valley was unable to make good of it and got clobbered in the first round of the state junior college championships.

El Camino will play the second game in the 8-conference playoffs at Fresno Saturday afternoon. Fresno City College defeated College of Marin in a first round game last week.

The other semi-final game is between East Los Angeles of the Western State Conference

and Citrus of the Southeastern Conference.

El Camino won the Metropolitan Conference title for the first time since 1954 and tacked on a 10th straight victory against Diablo Valley.

What made the Warriors look so feeble against Diablo Valley was the inability of Back Tom Reynolds to kick the flu bug. He ran at "half speed."

Quarterback Dan Heck threw the football around in the first half like it had helium gas in it. The offense handed the ball over to Diablo three times on fumbles and once on a pass interception.

The visiting Vikings, however, gave away five fumbles and three pass interceptions to make things easy for El Camino.

Diablo Valley did not have

much of a passing attack. Once this became evident the El Camino defense began paying more attention to fullback Larry Merlini whose 116 yards in 39 carries came mostly during the first three periods on various types of draw plays.

Three Diablo drives bogged down when the defense forced fumbles in the backfield and each time Dennis Higgins recovered the ball.

Near the end of the first quarter Jon Robertson ran back an interception 43 yards and in the second quarter El Camino got on the scoreboard with Ed Giles scoring from the 1.

El Camino later drove 82 yards to set up Dave Boyd's 1 yard plunge and just before halftime Ken Davenport booted a 28 yard field goal for a 16-0 lead. During the evening Davenport



KEN SWEARINGEN

port kicked 4 of 5 extra points.

The score went to 23-0 in the third quarter when Jeff Bettinger picked off a pass from Randy Nobles on the 16 yard line and had clear sailing to the end zone.

To even matters, QB Heck lofted a flat pass into the hands of Steve Sanchez and the Vikes quickly moved in for a fourth quarter TD on Merlini's dive.

Heck made amends with the best run of the night — a 55-yard rollout. The blocking was beautiful, but Dan did some fancy maneuvering for the final 20 yards.

After Jeff Maez raced 8 yards for the Vikings' second score, El Camino put the game out of reach on an 81 yard drive and a 3-yard touchdown run by Art Ross.

Coach Ken Swearingen of El Camino saw the game from the bench as well as the 5000 folks in the bleachers. He said the two-week layoff since the last game caused the team to be flat.

"That's not what you would call a masterpiece. We are going to have to execute better from now on or we will be in big trouble," said the youthful coach.

The stats show El Camino with 268 yards rushing and 108 passing while Diablo Valley had 138 rushing and 75 passing.

New Era Starts For Pepperdine

Pepperdine College's "New Era" in basketball is under way. The Waves, under first year coach Gary Colson, launched their 1968-69 basketball season on the road at Lamar Tech, Saturday and the University of Houston on Monday.

For Colson it will be a step into major college competition after a highly successful 10-year career in NAIA play.

During his tenure at Valdosta State College in Georgia, Colson's team won 188 and lost 69.

Colson inherits a team that hasn't had a winning record since 1963 and has just one returning starter off a 9-17 squad of a year ago.

"We want to play against the best major college competition in the country," says Colson.

Joining Colson will be returning standout Tom Egerer and a newcomer Bobby Sands.

Egerer, a Mira Costa grad, averaged 14.6 points per game last season as a sophomore, while Sands, a transfer from Mercer Community College in Trenton, N.J., was named the most valuable player in the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament.

Joining Egerer, a 6-4 forward, and Sands, a 6-3 guard, in the probable starting line-up are three sophomores, Steve Sims, Hiram Peterson and Jake Davis.

Sims, a 6-4 guard from Re-



STEVE SIMS

dondo, averaged 24.2 points per game last year on the freshman team. He is a tremendous outside shooter. Peterson is a 6-8 center and Davis a 6-6 forward.

Bench strength is expected to come from letterman guard Ernie Carr, 6-1, and junior college transfers Brian Berger, a 6-7 forward-center, and John Washington, a 6-2 guard.

Chris Wey, who had expected to be an alternate starter with Sims at guard, will miss from three to four weeks with stretched ligaments.

Chicago Invades Coliseum

Once again, as on every week-end this season, the Rams play another game they cannot afford to lose, this time against the resurging Chicago Bears. The game Sunday at the Coliseum begins at 1:05 p.m.

Chicago, buoyed by the return of their starting quarterback, Jack Concannon, now shares the Central Division lead with Minnesota despite earlier injuries to key personnel.

In their brilliant 31-3 trouncing of Minnesota at snowy Bloomington Sunday, the Rams dropped Viking Quarterback Joe Kapp five times in passing situations to take a large lead in the "sack" department. The defense has now caught enemy passers 45 times for 352 yards.

Meanwhile, the Ram offensive line, in its finest showing to date, made QB Roman Gabriel, the "Mr. Clean" of football, the Vikes didn't reach Roman once. Oh, yes, Gabe did get a trifle dirty when he ran for four yards.

One statistic of more than passing interest involves flanker Wendell Tucker's five receptions, four for touchdowns. And he had another TD called back Sunday.

Ron Kriens, Sister Win Foil Titles

Ronald Kriens, 18, won his second Southern California "under 19" foil championship at the World Explorer's Sportsman's Club in Los Angeles.

Ronald, the Western United States interscholastic foil champion for 1966, 1967, and 1968, is a former North High student. He is now attending Chapman College in Orange, majoring in math.

Ronald's sister Yvonne Kriens, three times Southern California "under 19" foil champion and interscholastic champion, and a participant in the world youth championship in London, England, this year, won the women's "C" class competition last week.



DAN GURNEY

Shores Games Slated

South High and Torrance High, two strong contenders in their own basketball leagues, will clash in the first round of the Pacific Shores Tournament at 6:30 today at Aviation.

West High will meet Loyola at Aviation at 5 p.m. while Bishop Montgomery goes against host Aviation at 8 p.m.

North and Culver City will mix in the first game at Redondo's girls gym at 6:30 with the host Seahawks tangling with El Segundo at 8 p.m.

The three games at the Mira Costa gym open with Serra playing Beverly Hills at 5; Morningside vs. Santa Monica at 6:30; and Leuzinger vs. Mira Costa at 8 p.m.

The tournament continues each day through Saturday when preliminaries start at 4:15 and wind up with the championship game at 9 p.m.



RON TAYLOR

R. Taylor May Have Big Year

USC basketball coach Bob Boyd predicted a couple of weeks ago that 7-1 center Ron Taylor will get 40 points against some teams this year.

Taylor, a senior who prepped at North High, scored 29 points in SC's 95-86 loss to Brigham Young last Saturday.

The Trojans have two veteran and talented guards in Mack Calvin and Steve Jennings.

Boyd's main problem is at forward. He is using Ernie Powell, 6-4 but a good shooter, and Bob Clemons, 6-4 rebounder, but an ordinary pointmaker.

"A great deal will depend on how our forwards come through," said Boyd.



MISS JUNIOR ROSE BOWL . . . Jackie Hart invites Supervisor Kenneth Hahn to the Dec. 7 football game between Grambling College of Southwestern Athletic Conference and Sacramento State. Kickoff will be at 2 p.m. at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. Miss Hart, 18, was selected by Pasadena Junior Chamber of Commerce.



HOW IT FEELS . . . to catch your first big fish at sea is told by this picture of Dan Burchete of Torrance, who brought in an 18 lb. Yellowtail off Redondo Beach last week. It was Dan's first big fish experience. He made his catch from the Reel Special, one of the Redondo Sportfishing fleet. Dan lives at 4820 Reynolds Drive and is in the 8th grade at Meadow Park School.